

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

Result means unity says new leader

NEW BOSS IS KEAN

IN: Hilda Kean



"THE RESULT of the leadership election means that there will be unity between the Labour Party and the Labour group of councillors," the new leader of Hackney Council, Hilda Kean, told HPP after her victory. She defeated the present incumbent, Anthony Kendall, by 70 votes to 57 at the local party conference on 28 April.

Hilda Kean's victory was one of two for the so-called 'left slate' in the five posts elected by the new style local conference. The other was Ken Hanson's victory over Jim Holland for the position of mayor. Patrick Kodikara and Maureen Colquhoun were defeated for the jobs of deputy leader and chief whip by Andrew Puddephat and Mary Cannon respectively, while the slate's candidate for deputy leader, Gary Lawless, had not signed his nomination paper and was unaccountably absent on day, so Betty Shanks was elected unopposed.

Rate-cap fight

These elections took place after the conference had taken a range of decisions which will put the council more directly on a course of confrontation with the Government. The council will have nothing to do with the proposed rate-capping legislation, and will not produce statistics or any other information government mandarins might want. These decisions will probably have a greater effect on the people of Hackney than the change of personality at the council's helm.

The conference was set up last year in an attempt to make the council more accountable to the party locally. All councillors and all members of the General Committee of each of the two constituency Labour Parties have a vote. Anthony Kendall's downfall was caused mainly by the votes of non-councillors, and by the fact that some thirty people present didn't vote, although only

seven abstentions were recorded. Among the recorded abstentions was ex-leader John Kotz, who pointedly described himself as the "most principled person present".

"Anthony Kendall probably didn't deserve to get defeated," said one councillor afterwards who didn't vote for him. "There was a feeling that he had done a lot of good work, and tributes were paid to the many initiatives that the council has taken, particularly in race relations and women's rights and on peace issues. The hard left were out to get him, however, and he just did not have enough supporters."

What probably contributed most to his defeat, however, was the view that the council was at odds with its own workforce. Kendall's manner has often given rise to the view that the council under his leadership has had bad industrial relations with its staff. He referred to this himself in his own speech to the conference, implying that the poor industrial relations were not entirely his fault, in a veiled but obvious reference to other senior councillors, particularly Patrick Kodikara, whose Social Services directorate has probably been the most troubled area over the last two years. The fact that Kodikara did not succeed in his bid for the deputy leadership reflected the view of some of the delegates that Kendall's self-defence was to some extent justified.

Positive

The divisions within the council's own workforce was reflected in the votes cast by the delegates from their unions. Most of the manual workers unions in fact supported the Kendall line, but the white collar members (voting as ward delegates since NALGO doesn't have delegates to

Labour Party GCs) mainly voted for Kean.

The atmosphere was described afterwards as being remarkably constructive and free from personal abuse. This was probably a reflection of the absence of some people who quite frequently become involved in hysterical and inaccurate attacks.

There was a certain undercurrent, after the elections,

that Hilda Kean might find it difficult to manage a Labour Group which did not have a majority of her supporters. She herself says that she would expect local ward parties to make sure that their councillors put the policies of the party into practice.

She told HPP that her priorities would be putting the policies agreed by the

Conference into practice, defying the rate-capping legislation, working with the Direct Labour Organisation and the Federation of Hackney Tenants and improving labour relations. "It is clearly the will of the Labour Party," she said, "that the council should be accountable to the party. The party has given us a mandate."

The great brick rip-off

A recent Thames Television "Reporting London" programme delved into the way in which Hackney Council has been ripped off by private contractors during the building of local estates.

Here we bring you some of their findings as well as details of a similar scandal taking place within the maintenance department discovered by the Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations.

The programme reported that during the building of Ferncliffe Road Estate, six times the required amount of glass was bought, as well as enough radiators to heat the borough.

Bricks too were over-ordered. But when does a certain amount of wastage (normal) become a major loss (theft)?

At the same time as the estate was being built the glaziers on the estate were building a new warehouse in nearby Leswin Road. So what?

According to the experts asked, the Ferncliffe estate

bricks were of an unusual size - the same type in fact that ended up in the Leswin Road warehouse.

This was unlikely to have been a coincidence. But the researchers looking into this found that the relevant documents suddenly went missing!

Corruption also appeared to have taken place in the awarding of the original contracts. Some contractors were allowed to submit quotations after the final deadline (when other bids could have been leaked). Contractors could then submit a lower quotation. But massive unexpected cost over-runs were common leading to final bills much higher than rival bids.

The extent of the fraud is hard to estimate, but on Ferncliffe Road estate alone it could be in the region of £4 million of the councils money - our rent and rates!

Brian Woolard, a Police inspector examining the allegations of fraud was suddenly transferred off the case just after arresting someone for a similar fraud in Islington.

He was near to arresting people in connection with the Hackney fraud when a member of the Department of Public

Prosecutions known to be a member of the Freemasons started asking questions. It was after this that inspector Woolard was moved off the case!

But the fraud does not seem to be limited to the building side. According to Terry Robinson of The Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations, the same sort of thing is going on with regular maintenance work.

Job tickets found at the Bowling Green Walk maintenance depot were shown to Roger Barcroft from Cazenove Architects to cost and compare with the prices already found on the tickets. Again discrepancies were found.

The Fed wrote to the council calling for an independent inquiry. The response was that they could see no value in this, proposing an internal inquiry instead.

The council do not want to start prosecutions, saying that there is not enough evidence to ensure convictions.

But contractors known to have stolen money from the people of Hackney are still getting work - almost an open invitation to carry on doing so!

Hackney supports miners - See Centre Pages

FIRE ON GLC

REPRESENTATIVES of the Fight to Implement Racial Equality (FIRE) last month met with London Labour MPs to discuss the GLC's impending abolition. FIRE said that the government's neglect of racial factors was "insulting".

Ethnic community organisations from all over London have recognised the GLC's strategic approach to questions which cut across borough boundaries. The FIRE representatives said they wanted the GLC to continue. "The GLC has launched a comprehensive programme to tackle racial disadvantage," said Bharat Mehta of Haringey Pensioners' Link. "No single borough or joint board would have the same strategic approach to the issues affecting black Londoners."

"Further, we have particularly welcomed the open access and open doors at County Hall. We can talk direct to the people in a position to make decisions affecting us and the million Londoners we represent. We deeply resent the government ignoring the racial implications of abolishing the GLC, just as we were taking part in self-government in London for the first time ever," he said.

The MPs undertook to raise the points made by the black representatives in debates about the abolition of the GLC and directly with the ministers involved.

PEACE MURAL

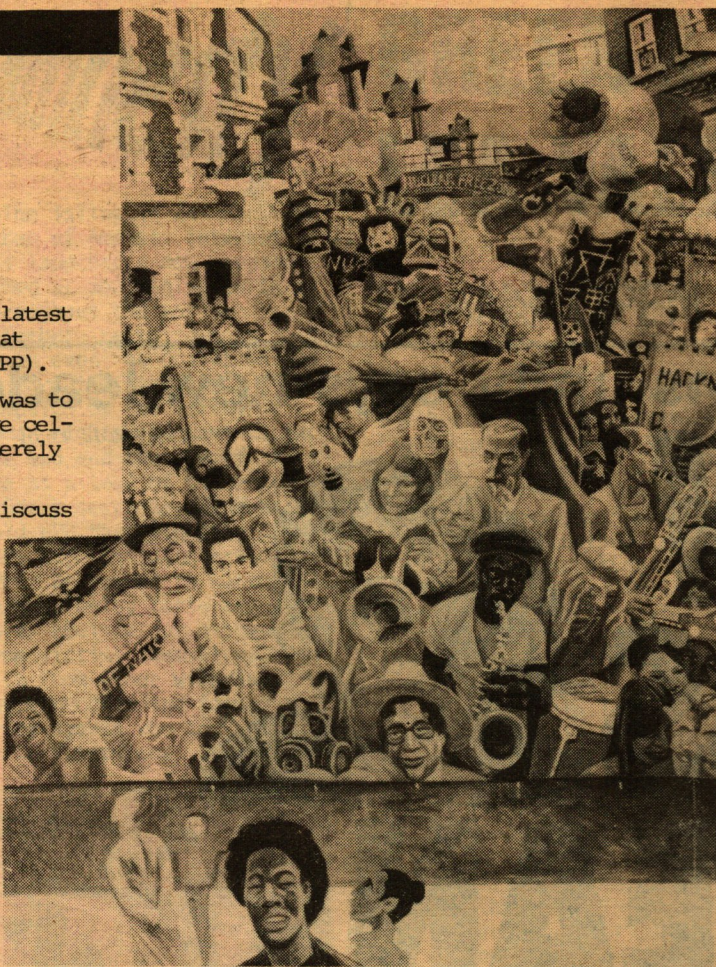
The picture on the right shows the latest design for the mural to be painted at Dalston Junction (see last month's HPP).

The aim of Ray Walker, the artist, was to produce a design which is a positive celebration of life, as distinct from merely being an anti-nuclear character.

A meeting was held on 26 April to discuss the progress of the mural and plans for the peace garden. For the latest details of possible future meetings, contact either Ray Walker on 254 8892 or Bertha Turner on 249 5869.

The wall is expected to be prepared for the drawing-in around the middle of this month, with the actual drawing-in being done in June and July.

Two different types of uses and space have emerged for the garden: activities and events at the far end of the site and short stay transient use along the outer edges of the site along Dalston Lane.



Modernised house renamed in recognition of anti-apartheid fighter MORLEY BECOMES MANDELA

LAST MONTH Hackney Council renamed Morley House, a recently modernised pre-war block in Stoke Newington, to Nelson Mandela House in recognition of Nelson Mandela's struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

The renaming of the block is intended to help promote good race relations in the borough, to demonstrate the Council's solidarity with the ideals of Nelson Mandela and to highlight his plight

in fighting South Africa's discriminatory racial laws.

The naming ceremony commemorates Nelson Mandela's 22nd year of imprisonment in South Africa. It also coincides with the success of the Special AKA's song 'Free Nelson Mandela'.

The plaque is inscribed with the following quote:

"During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this

struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Nelson Mandela 20 April 1964.

RATES AND HEALTH

LOCAL GOVERNMENT services are vital in maintaining the health of the community, and these services are at risk because of government plans for rate capping. Those are the conclusions of a report by Dr Peter Draper, former director of the Unity for the Study of Health Policy at Guy's Hospital Medical School, London.

The report, *The Health Implications of Rate-Capping*, emphasises that the health of the community is increasingly seen in terms of preventative factors such as nutrition, lifestyle and the environment, rather than merely the treatment of the disease. Local councils contribute in many ways to the prevention of illness, health promotion and community care, and all these functions are at risk in rate-capped local authorities.

Dr Draper argues that local authority services such as environmental health and community care for the elderly, the mentally and physically handicapped and others will be "catastrophically" affected by the impact of rate-capping on council budgets.

"The overwhelming conclusion to be drawn from this information and these consultations is one of grave concern. In summary, the reductions in health-relevant services would jeopardise prevention and the promotion of health and significantly worsen community care services which are already under considerable pressure," says the report.



letters

Democracy I

Dear HPP,

The use of masses of police in the struggle of the miners to prevent unnecessary pit closures has focussed attention on the matter of democracy.

The government and its supporters say that the police are being used in the name of democracy to ensure the right of miners who want to work. The miners and their supporters say that the police are interfering with their democratic right to peacefully picket.

It puts the purveyors of "Pure Democracy" in a difficult position. We Communists know that the democracy under which we live in this country is a capitalist democracy, which is designed to maintain capitalism in power as feudal democracy was designed to maintain the king and his barons in power.

The media, press, TV and radio are overwhelmingly under the control of the capitalist class and the recent court decision relating to industrial disputes and the actions of the police against the miners leave no doubt as to their roles in our society.

What democracy working people have is the result of prolonged struggle and is simply an extension of that democracy brought into being by capitalists. The question of how secure that democracy is can be judged by the present attacks on local government and the proposal to substantially increase Parliamentary deposits.

The fight to maintain and extend the amount of democracy we have is part of the struggle to end the domination of Britain by the capitalist class and to create a socialist Britain

in which the ruling class will be the working class.

In that situation the democracy required will be designed to maintain the working class in power. This will, of course, be called "dictatorship" by the de-throned capitalist class who will have lost the source of their power, wealth and privilege. But the amount of democracy for the working class will be, as Lenin put it, "a million times more than any bourgeois democracy."

Yours sincerely,
Harry Mundy,
George Dowing Estate, N16

Democracy II

Dear HPP,

It is interesting that Felicity Harvest, in your April issue, neglects to inform readers of her role as Director of Cultural Partnerships Ltd., the company set up last December by the eleven, or is it twelve, workers who resigned from Free Form.

Clearly Ms Harvest is unable to assume an even handed position over the dispute which led to the split and has decided that HPP should not do so either.

As a Director, Ms Harvest's responsibility is to the principle of keeping to an agreed settlement and recognising the end of a dispute which was settled at ACAS in December and declared by the Union to be officially ended on 8 March.

Perhaps we should question the motivation of those with a vested interest in undermining the reputation of Free Form, a company whose long track record of successful community projects predates the arrival of the workers who engineered the break up of Free Form.

We should also realise that many of the real facts of the dispute remain overlooked. The workers in dispute overturned the democracy of meetings by holding them in their own homes to deny access to those it had been agreed should attend.

Free Form did not employ scab labour-- speak to union members who remain with Free Form. Free Form's former structure

which was administered by Ms Harvest in '77-'80 has in fact been adopted by Cultural Partnerships and yet is accused by Ms Harvest of being undemocratic.

Ms Harvest is telling you not to work with Free Form. Who's oppressing who? I invite interested readers to contact Free Form to find out the facts for themselves. John McCafferty, without bias, in a letter to the Gazette spoke of the great British tradition of hearing both sides-- people must feel free to make up their own minds. Congratulations to HPP for being a fair democratic people's newspaper.

Barbara Wheeler-Early
Free Form

EDITORIAL NOTE:

Felicity Harvest, in a postscript to her letter did make clear her involvement in Cultural Partnerships. There was no intention to conceal involvements and we regret any confusion our typists' aversion to postscripts may have caused.

Hackney Anti-racist year

Hackney's own anti-racist year got off to a colourful start on 27 April. The year, which overlaps the GLC's anti-racist year, bears the slogan 'RACIAL EQUALITY = JUSTICE'.

The leader of the council, Anthony Kendall, in his message, said that the campaign was against one of the most powerful and sinister evils in modern society. It is intended to challenge all aspects of racial discrimination and inequality. The council, he considered, had a special responsibility to combat racialism in all areas. Targets had been set in recruitment, training, housing, social services and community projects.

The day itself saw a programme of events organised by the local community in celebration. Chinese drama, poetry recitals by people from all over the world, African theatre music and dance from several countries showed how rich in different cultures Hackney has now become.

Rights unit for Hackney

A WELFARE RIGHTS UNIT FOR HACKNEY - Meeting - Tuesday May 8 at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street at 7pm. There is now a real possibility that initial funding from the GLC for a unit to provide support services for advice centres, including training programmes, research etc. will be forthcoming.

The welfare rights support team has already gained support for the unit amongst many voluntary groups in Hackney and also have the support of the council.

They now need help and support to ensure a representative management structure is further developed by local agencies.

The WELFARE RIGHTS SUPPORT TEAM is based at 15 Old St, EC1. Tel 253 6063.

Improvise non-stop

NON-STOP IMPROVISATION by EXPERIENCE YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE.

Sixty hours non-stop improvisation is planned in aid of the SAVE HACKNEY CAMPAIGN. The aim is to break the world record and they want to make the improvisations around a "Save It" theme.

The venue will be outside the Town Hall in Mare Street from May 21 to 23.

They would like to hear from any budding stars or people who don't mind making fools of themselves! Can you join in for an hour or so over this period? Also required are people to help collect sponsors, act as officials etc.

Telephone Rob West on 729 3354 or Sue Bradley on 729 5536.



Stoke Newington Police Station (pic: David Hoffman)

Miners say no to Bill

HACKNEY Campaign Against the Police Bill, in conjunction with its counterpart in Newham, organised a meeting at East Ham Town Hall on 25 April on "Policing and the Miners Strike."

The gathering was intended to publicise the provisions and implications of the Police Bill and to show how some of the provisions in the bill have already been implemented by the police during the course of the miners strike. (see box)

Speaking at the meeting were Kent and Yorkshire miners; Barnor Hesse of

the Roach Family Support Committee; representatives of the Indian Workers Association and the Union of Turkish Workers; Brynley Heaven, chair of Hackney Council Police Committee and Les Perkins, NUPE shop steward at Barking Hospital who told the meeting about the dispute between cleaners and the private contractors Crothall's.

"Step forward"

Liz Fekete, from Hackney Campaign against the Police Bill told HPP that the meeting was a step forward in spreading the campaign across East London. "It was a very useful and successful meeting. It was good that there was such a broad selection," she said. "So many different experiences of policing were related."

At the trials, the police and demonstrators gave very different versions of what happened on each occasion.

Aggressive response

According to both eye-witness and photographic evidence the police wildly overestimated both the numbers and the violence in order to justify their aggressive response and indiscriminate arrests.

It appears from the way in which the marches were policed, the brutal and arbitrary nature of some of the arrests and the way in which people were handled in local police stations that there was a strong element of punishment in police behaviour. It seems likely that the local police were determined to reassert control of their 'patch'. For example, on one demonstration, those arrested early on were taken to City Road police station. Some were detained till the next morning and six were kept over the whole weekend. By contrast, others arrested later the same day were taken to Holborn police station, charged with similar offences and released within 15 minutes.

It also seems clear that convictions depended as much on the views of the magistrate

as on the quality of the prosecution evidence. One convicted ten out of the twelve tried by him. Another dismissed the charges in ten of the 19 cases he heard, and became more sceptical of police evidence as the cases continued.

Six imprisoned

In all, six people were imprisoned for periods of one to four weeks. Two received suspended sentences and one was put on probation. 32 people were fined and at least 13 had to contribute towards their legal costs. Others were bound over, put on community service or received conditional discharges.

"mistakes"

CAPA's conclusion is that none of the trials and convictions need have occurred "if the police had behaved decently, properly and sensitively on the night of Colin's death or if they had had the common sense or largeness of spirit, or political will, to acknowledge their 'mistakes' and either rectify them, or at the very least, not compound them."

Copies of the survey are available from:

CAPA, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, E2 Tel: 729 2652

Luxury offices attacked

Many a decrepit, crumbling house in Hackney needs money spending on it to make it habitable as plenty of tenants will tell you. One house has had the full treatment - and more - but little enthusiasm has been raised in the hearts of tenants.

The house, a listed building in Stoke Newington High Street, has just been done up to the tune of what is guesstimated to be several million pounds. It is now inhabited by the District One Housing Office.

The lavishness of the restoration raised the fury of Woodberry Down Tenants' Association. Why they asked, when so many council tenants are in desperate need and cash is so tight, has all this money been squandered on one building? They picketed the building in protest and sent leaflets out.

According to the council, the office space was urgently needed: staff in the housing department had been very overcrowded and had been working in unsafe conditions. It is possible, too, though the facts are unclear, that the money could have come from the GLC. And with the building being listed, there are certain standards that the council was under compulsion to meet.

Nevertheless, the sumptuousness of the building must be of some embarrassment to the council. The kind of expenditure that clearly must have been involved can be only be seen as excessive - and insensitive - in an area where so many people lack even the minimum of decent housing.

Huddleston centre saved

Hackney Council has agreed to pay the 75% funding recently cut by the Government for the Huddleston Centre. This is for one year only, so the Huddleston will be looking for more funding in a year's time - and needing our support in getting it.

The other good news about the centre is that their 'top floor' was officially opened by Trevor Huddleston on 26 April. It is to be used mainly for youth work.

Forthcoming Events

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: If you are planning any events for this summer from mid-june onwards, then let the councils newspaper know. The Hackney Herald is having a community centre-spread; contact Michell Grant on 986 3123 ex 213.

And don't forget to let HPP know of all your events whenever they might be!

COPY DEADLINE: Saturday May 26 for June issue.

STRIKING MINERS GET

There may not be any mines in Hackney but, even so, the miners' strike has generated plenty of activity in the borough.

The Kent area of the National Union of Mineworkers, who represent one of the country's most threatened regions, has been organising support in London. Kent miners have attended meetings and spoken at workplaces all over Hackney. Over 400 people came to two meetings at the Town Hall and a benefit at the Rio Cinema last month, and contributed £600 to the NUM strike fund. The Executive of Hackney NALGO branch has pledged £1000 and groups like the Socialist Workers and Revolutionary Communist Parties have printed posters and taken collections for the miners.

THE LABOUR PARTY held a meeting on 13 April which was addressed by TU officials and luminaries like Brian Sedgemore and Ernie Roberts.

Kent NUM President Jack Collins was the main speaker. He thanked Hackney workers for their solidarity, donations and accommodation.

Collins also noted how the establishment media sent up a chorus of opposition to the miners. "Don't listen to the Guardian," he warned.

Collins explained that Arthur Scargill had become a media bogeyman not because the establishment is frightened of Scargill, but because they were afraid of the miners and the organised working class as a whole. "They'll use the attack on the miners to smash all of you. If the miners go down, you'll all go down," said Collins.

Jack Collins was particularly outraged by the insidious behind-the-scenes role the state apparatus played in the dispute. He mentioned DHSS instructions ordering staff not to meet with miners, nor to take collections on their

Jack Collins



behalf and the vanloads of police.

"The jackboots are being pulled on. If you want to see it, turn on your television and watch the scenes taking place in the British coalfield," he said.

He also raised several points about the ballot issue. First, the effect of a national NUM ballot would mean that miners in prosperous pits like Leicester and Nottingham could vote away the future of Kent miners and undercut the fight to save other jobs. Second, the miners voted in 1981 in a national ballot to allow the NUM executive to call for

industrial action, up to and including strike action, to stop the Coal Board from closing pits for any other reason than exhaustion. Third, Collins doubted that a democratic vote could be taken in the present climate of repression and with all the anti-NUM propaganda being put out by Fleet Street.

Jack Collins concluded, "I read that McGregor said in the papers 'You'll be out for a long time'. If we get defeated this time, we'll be out a lot longer. I don't intend to let the mines go down."

Several speakers pointed out that McGregor was a coal mine owner himself in the

"If the pits close, we will be living in isolated rural ghettos"

— Margaret Holmes, Kent NUM Women's Support Group

United States. Although McGregor accused miners of violence on the picket lines (in his view the police were only doing their job by protecting strike-breakers; the police road blocks and snatch squads were merely preventing breaches of the peace), it was noted that he had never condemned the vicious methods including murder, used by the strike breakers in Harlan County in 1969.

It was therefore fitting that Clare Fraenzl, a member of the Local (branch) 1197 of the United Mine Workers of America addressed the meeting. Fraenzl works for a project to help women get into the US mining industry and to defend women already in the industry. She said that she would be taking back the lessons of the NUM's struggle to America since the UMW was facing similar threats to their working conditions - wage cuts, reduced benefits and weaker safety regulations.

Clare Fraenzl ended her talk on a defiant note: "We beat McGregor in Harlan County I'm sure the British miners will win."

North Hackney MP, Ernie Roberts told the meeting "My first job at the age of

13 was in a mine - the pit where my dad worked. And in the strike which led to the General Strike, the support given by engineering workers was the first lesson I got in trade union solidarity."

There was an old fashioned air about the meeting which conjured up images in my mind of the 1930's. Gone were the tiresome semantics of the television chat-show approach to industrial conflict. There was no need to analyse the economics of the NCB's productivity deal nor to wrestle with modern complications like ACAS. The rhetoric was that of class struggle pure and

simple. Ernie Roberts' concluding remarks were a good example: "The working class united can never be defeated. Let's put that principle into practice."

THE SOCIALIST WORKER Party held another 'Support the Miners' meeting at the Town Hall on 18 April. Malcolm Armstrong, a miner from the Tilmanstone pit near Dover, talked to the meeting.

He was worried about the NUM facing a serious struggle while the union was split and blamed the incentive bonus scheme for allowing the NCB to carry out its divide and rule policy.

The Nottingham miners who take home the biggest wage packets are the ones with the easiest jobs. Miners in Kent and other areas have to spend more time shearing up shafts than workers at shallower pits. A Nottingham miner's bonus payment is often more than a Kent miner's weekly wage. Armstrong was also irritated that miners who continued working during the strike were not adhering to the 1981 national NUM vote to oppose pit closures



"Loss of liberty is like going bald, it happens strand by strand."

— Dan Jones, Tower Hamlets Trades Council Secretary

except where the coal was unminable.

Nevertheless, even before the national delegate conference where Nottingham NUM leaders called on their members to stop work, the union reported that the strike was 80% solid. Kent miners have been picketing Tilbury docks and power stations in the South East.

The Miner, NUM's news paper also published photographs of coal tractors being used at the Drax power station to push dwindling coal stocks into

cosmetic heaps which, when seen from the road, gave the impression of an abundant stockpile.

The SWP meeting too, had a nostalgic tone — this time for the Great Miners' strikes of '72 and '74. Sheila McGregor, from Birmingham, retold the story of the gates at the Saltey coke depot. Ms McGregor noted that the 1984 miners' strike was more passive than the previous struggles. One reason, she said, was because the grass-roots

Miners get a taste of the Police State

During the course of the miners dispute, several incidents have been reported which indicate that the authorities have gone to frightening lengths to prevent pickets from reaching key pits, and to suppress the miners' democratic rights.

Police tactics have included:

— **Roadblocks and checkpoints** on all major and minor roads leading into the Nottingham

coalfield. Miners' freedom of movement has been restricted and members of the public have been harassed. A favourite police trick is to impound vehicles and arrest drivers, so that the passengers are forced to return

BLOCKED

home by foot. One NUM official was arrested and had his windscreen shattered at a police roadblock.

Brian Sedgemore tells the story of a priest who was turned back by police who told him "you might be a miner in disguise".

— **Telephone tapping.** Kent miners received a telephone call at 2.30 in the morning asking them to send pickets to a pit in Barnsley. Less than 45 minutes later, they were turned back by a police blockade of the Dartford tunnel. A Welsh coach proprietor was asked to reveal

the destination of pickets under threat of losing his operator's licence just 10 minutes after miners had phoned through their booking. The speed of these responses could only have been permitted by tapping miners' telephones.

— **Arbitrary legal proceedings.** Arrested miners have had their trials delayed until June, and have been released on conditional bail forbidding them to visit any pit but their own.

HACKNEY SUPPORT

KENT is the smallest region in the British coalfield, with three pits employing 2,800 miners: Bettshanger (1,200), Tilmanstone (1,000) and Snowdown (600). Both Tilmanstone and Snowdown are earmarked for closure under the NCB's current proposals. This would destroy two small communities which rely almost entirely on the collieries for their economic survival. As Margaret Holmes of the Kent NUM Women's Support Group put it: "If the pits close, we'll be living in isolated rural ghettos."

KENT MINERS SPEAK:

Miners are on strike to defend their industry, their communities and their jobs.

It is economic madness to run down the mining industry when North Sea Oil and Gas are so short lived and when turmoil in the Middle East can cause oil prices to go through the roof.

The Coal Board agrees that British mining "productivity is continually setting new international and European records". But the attack against the miners is not for economic but political reasons.

The government is determined to break the bargaining power of the National Union of Mineworkers as an important part of its overall strategy of repression against Trade Unions and other democratic rights.

They are moving — despite the dangers, hazards and astronomic costs — along the suicidal path of nuclear energy, intent on cutting coal production drastically through pit closures eventually to privatise the highly profitable pits and areas remaining with rich pickings for the multi-nationals and end the publicly owned mining industry.

McGregor, himself an American multi-millionaire, was appointed to carry out this Tory conspiracy — only possible if the miners are defeated.

We miners have seen what McGregor did to the steel industry with steel towns and their communities inhumanely destroyed. We will not accept such a future.

Nor will we live on our knees. We will not be intimidated by the undemocratic and illegal actions of thousands of police nor by media distortions and exaggeration of our fight for justice.

We refuse to be the victims of Tory rule on behalf of the rich and powerful. No way will we allow ourselves to be added to the obscenity of 4 million unemployed people in our country.

Nor will we Kent miners allow someone else to decide whether our communities and our families have a future for we have long since learnt how the undemocratic pressures of the media act against the democracy of a ballot.

We have taken our decision to fight in our traditional democratic manner at mass meetings throughout our coalfield — we are voting with our feet.

Meanwhile we need your help. Don't be intimidated by the climate of repression. Stand up against the erosion of democracy. We regret any inconvenience our struggle for justice may cause the public but what is at stake is of importance not just for us but for you and indeed for Britain.

Although the miners are not receiving any strike pay, their families are having £15 docked from Social Security payments under a provision of the 1981 Employment Act. They depend on donations to stay solvent. The Kent area NUM has been selling badges (produced by Hackney's premier badge makers, Trojan printers) to raise funds and is asking supporters to take collections at their workplaces and to send individual contributions. Please make cheques/postal orders payable to "Kent NUM". Send your donations to the Kent NUM's London strike headquarters, c/o TG&WU Offices, Headland House, 308 Grays Inn Road, London WC1 8DS. Tel: 278 7801 x39.



◀ militants of '72 & '74 were the area officials of 1984.

Speakers from the floor deplored the deafening silence from the higher reaches of the TUC and Labour Party. "Neil Kinnock

he said. The meeting raised around £200 for the Kent NUM, and deepened the links between Hackney and mining communities in Kent.

● A coach is being organised to take East Londoners to

"The jackboots are being pulled on"

Jack Collins, Kent NUM President

is everybody's best friend, he's a nice guy. But he hasn't said a word about the miners strike until this week," said Sheila McGregor.

the Kent miners' traditional May Day march in Thanet on 6 May. Contact 558 0069 for more information.

● HACKNEY Borough Council has told the NUM that miners

As HPP went to press, the Rio cinema was hosting a benefit for the miners, organised by Hackney South Labour Party. Over one hundred people, including 22 members of the Kent Women's support committee, watched the film 'Harlan County USA' and listened to an all-woman panel. Speakers included Margaret Holmes (Kent ♀ support committee), Rose Knight (NUR), Doreen Wepler (Hackney S Labour Party), Sharon Patrick (Trades Council), Frances Curran (Young Socialists) and Jo Thwaites (Hackney North Labour Party).

Chris Morris from Hackney South Labour Party felt the benefit was very successful. "The platform was impressive. It put across the fact that women are playing a leading role in the fight against Thatcher,"



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and their families are welcome to use Council facilities during the strike. Does this mean that miners will be accommodated in Stoke Newington's plush new Housing District office?

● One of Hackney's Co-ops has been giving the miners direct support in their struggle. Last month, Trojan Printers received the following letter:

"Dear Trojan,

May I on behalf of the Wheldale Branch of the NUM thank you for the kindness in supplying the Flying Picket badges free of charge. This we feel is a very kind gesture on your behalf and it does help towards creating the feeling of comradeship when we see each other wearing the badge.

There is such a big demand for the badges I have sent your address to NUM headquarters."

Yours sincerely,
Malcolm Kitchen
Castelford, W. Yorks

"We beat McGregor in Harlan County. I'm sure the British miners will win."

— Claire Fraenzl, UMW (USA)

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TROJAN PRESS

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HACKNEY, LONDON N16 8JN
TELEPHONE 01-249 5771

pub of the month

This month's alcoholic odyssey (try saying that after four pints) took in three pubs in Stoke Newington High St, the Tanners Hall, Marler's Bar and the Three Crowns. Within two minutes' walking distance of one another, the three pubs are quite different in atmosphere and feel, and the two newer ones mirror the gentrification which is now well under way in this part of Hackney. Yet each one has its own appeal and won some converts from the HPP research team.

The newly refurbished Tanners Hall, formerly the Rochester Castle, was the first port of call. - Some amongst us experienced acute shock on first encountering the pub, witness, in the not so distant past, to many scenes of mis-spent youth. Gazing in horror through the forest of (artificial) plants in hanging baskets, they sought in vain for the cheap lino flooring, the pool tables and the rock bands of old. All that remains are the old tiles near the entrance, protected by a preservation order. Yards of the aforementioned plants, wooden beams and rows of books have taken their place. And in the light cast by the minty green lamps we could see long-legged pink flamingoes and parrots apparently clambering through the foliage - and not a drop of ale had yet passed our lips!



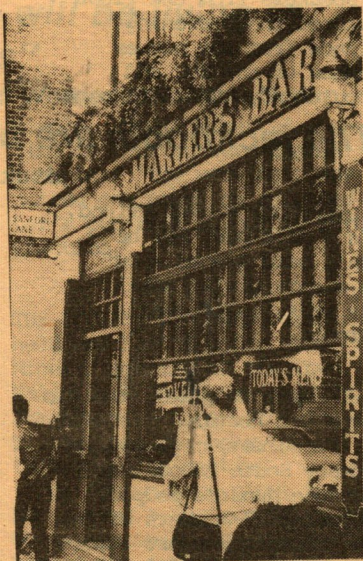
The Tanners Hall has obviously been renovated at vast expense. A large pub, it consists of three spacious rooms knocked into one, carpeted throughout, painted cream and bedecked with assorted objets d'art from lamposts to stuffed animals. There is no juke box, so it is a quiet, relaxed place for conversation. But the HPP research team had more than chat in mind.

And so to the serious business of beer tasting. The Old Suffolk Best Bitter (72p) was not one that we'd heard of before. Quite dark in colour - or was it the dim lighting - it was good and hoppy but a bit thin and somewhat harsh. Could it be a malt extract brew we wondered? A pint of Sampsons by Trumans was no snip at 94p a pint, but was pronounced 'thick, strong, and flavoursome' by our tester. But watch out for the mixers - lime juice was 10p a shot.

As we left the Tanners we reflected that many of the old 'Rochester' regulars seem to have deserted their former drinking haunt. The new pub is certainly designed to appeal to a more up-market clientele, threatening to become a mecca for North London glitterati.

Marlers Bar

On the other side of the High St., less than a minute away, is Marler's Bar. It has a similar appeal but a very different atmosphere. One HPP researcher who wanted to it instantly, said "it's a pub on a human scale, a bit trendy, but nevertheless one that you can instantly feel at home in". Yet it could feel claustrophobic - much smaller than the megalithic Tanners and far noisier, with lively conversations competing with Rolling Stones records.



The regulation pub decor was again much in evidence with many of the now familiar basketfuls of green plants. Toby jugs and china plates were ranged above the bar and there was again there was an assortment of 'interesting' objects, for example a sewing machine and shelves of old books.

The clientele was more mixed here than at the Tanners. The crowd seemed slightly younger and smarter and a matey, club 18-30 style atmosphere prevailed, with Marlers Bar sweatshirts on sale at the bar for committed regulars. A forthcoming Toga Party was advertised for 19 May. Cocktail drinkers were catered for, from the cheapest, Pimms No 1 Cup at £1.30 to a Pina Colada at £1.75.

Mystery Bitter

Ale-wise, a good selection of well known 'Free House' beers were on sale. A monthly Mystery Bitter, whose true identity the bar staff politely refused to reveal, was a good buy at 68p. Light, dry and refreshing - although a less kind description might have been "tasteless". The flavour came through more as the pint went down. The Marstons Pedigree at 90p was a bit pricey, and while recognisable as Pedigree, was not as good as it could have been. The Arkells Beer at 78p was declared "mediocre" and the Sam Smiths OBB (82p) appeared to flummox one tester who could only describe it as "strawberry flavoured". Hmmm. Also on sale were Everards Old Original (98p) and Adnams (80p) yet sadly there was no time to sample the promisingly titled Godson's GBH (Black Horse). It was time to visit the Three Crowns.

Three Crowns

The Three Crowns is situated on the corner of Stoke Newington High Street and Church Street, next to the traffic lights. Here at last was the tatty lino and fag ends so beloved of ex-'Rochester' purists. In this dark, crowded and pleasantly sleazy atmosphere, the music of a lively hot swamp R & B band, The Poor Boys, blasted out. A mixed set of customers young and old, black and white, listened intently and a few at the front danced. This was not a place for long involved conversations, more a place for relaxing and soaking in the music and friendly atmosphere. Some serious pool playing was progressing in the back room with 4 well sized pool tables.

The service at the bar was quick and efficient. But our researcher could only describe the Best Bitter as "indescribable". Pressed further, he elaborated, "It could be anything." The draught Guinness met with approval and was declared "good average and very drinkable".

Though lacking the range of ales and the extravagant decor available in the other two pubs, the Three Crowns did not lack for atmosphere. This was the oldest of the three pubs we visited, and the most like 'old' Stoke Newington. The Tanners Hall and Marlers are in the new mode of Stoke Newington pubs which began with Fox's wine bar in Church Street and continued with Steptoes. All of these bars will no doubt attract trend-seeking customers from other areas of North London, but how many more like this can there be?? After pink flamingoes, what next?

Is Stoke Newington in danger of becoming the Camden Lock of Hackney?

'Bloody L.I.A.R.S.'

"Bloody L.i.a.r.s." by Michael Rosen and Alan Gilbey. Available from Michael Rosen, 11 Meeson Street, E5 OEA. Price: £1.50 + 50p postage.

"Bloody L.i.a.r.s." is a collection of political poems by Michael Rosen with drawings by Alan Gilbey. The background information to the topics covered are provided by relevant news clippings. This idea is a good one, going to show that the subjects deserve the howls of anguish they receive at the hands of the writer and cartoonist.

Yet in some instances, and this particularly refers to Michael Rosen's longer pieces, I wonder if poetry has been the most appropriate way to communicate this pain. I am conscious of the polemic starting to take over from and get in the way of any attempt at poetical style. Perhaps there works come over better when performed? I would like to think so, if only because of the obvious sincerity of Michael Rosen's feelings.

In contrast, the shorter poems are invariably well composed, having plenty of punch and metre. I especially liked 'Playground':

In the playground at the back of our house there have been some changes

They said: the climbing frame's not safe so they sawed it down.

They said: the paddling pool's not safe so they drained it dry.

They said: the see-saw's not safe so they took it away.

They said: the sandpit's not safe so they fenced it in.

They said: the playground's not safe so they locked it up

sawn down
drained dry
taken away
fenced in
locked up

How do you feel?
Safe?



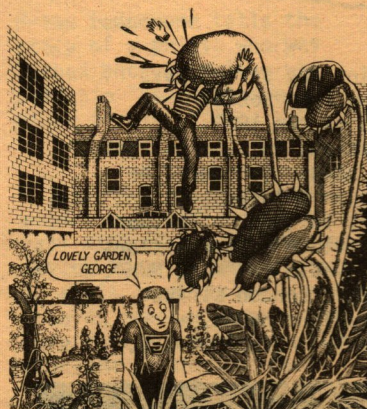
GARDEN FEST.

THE FIRST annual Hackney Grove Garden Festival is being held from 12 noon on Friday and Saturday 18 & 19 May to celebrate the opening of Hackney Grove Community Garden.

The festival will feature music, food, theatre, stalls, and an exhibition. The garden has granite boulders, a pond and water gully, stone carvings, ornamental wall mosaics, plants and trees.

At the moment 1500 mixed bulbs are in bloom. You will find it opposite Off Centre on Hackney Grove, just behind the Housing Department headquarters.

Hackney Grove Community Garden is the brainchild of a group of people who got together in 1981 and put forward a proposal under to Partnership scheme to convert what was then a derelict site. Free Form helped community volunteers to design and lay out the garden.



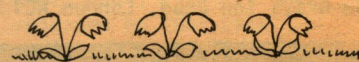
'The Pit', as Hackney Grove garden is affectionately called, is now open weekdays between 10.00am and 5.00pm. It has access for disabled people and a seated terrace area. It is possible to visit the garden several times and see something different each time.

The Hackney Grove Garden Group is responsible for maintaining the Pit, developing new amenity features and attracting community interest in the garden. They intend the Hackney Grove Garden Festival to become an annual event.

There is a lot of work involved in running the garden and organising a festival. If you want to help, contact the group at:

Off Centre, 25 Hackney Grove E8. Tel: 985 8566.

COME TO THE FESTIVAL AND VISIT THE GARDEN WHILE THE BULBS ARE OUT.



WHAT'S ON

THE CHESTNUTS FOLK CLUB

At the Chestnut Tree pub (upstairs room) Lea Bridge Road, E17. Near the Whipps Cross roundabout on the 55 Bus route.

Sunday evenings from 7.30.
May 6: Dougie McLean.
May 13: Jean Pierre Rasle and Dave Whetstone.
May 20: Dave Burland.
May 27: Tansey's Fancy.

On the weekend of June 1 to 3 the Folk Club is presenting a WEEKEND SPECTACULAR of Concerts, dances, street theatre, dance displays, puppet theatre, childrens' shows, Morris tours, bar sessions and song, dance and instrumental workshops.

The main events are a folk dance on the Friday evening, a variety show on Saturday evening and a final concert on the Sunday evening. Tickets are on sale for these events but there are many free events too.

For more details of the club and weekend spectacular contact Alan Bearman on 803 1757 or Andy Smith on Romford 62747. Or send a SAE to Alan Bearman, 71 Somerset Rd, Edmonton, N18 1HH.

REVIEWED:

ART BLAKEY AND THE JAZZ MESSENGERS at RONNIE SCOTT'S By Clifford Salt.

I'm sure that a good many of Hackney's jazz crowd caught Art Blakey earlier in April at Ronnie's. Since the heady days of be-bop and his featuring of Clifford Brown, Blakey has continually introduced some great talents to the jazz world. In London once again he touted another marvellous band of young pretenders.

The two saxes offered a lovely contrast. On alto Donald 'Duck' Harrison was frenetic almost rampant. He totally belied earlier reports of pepetitiveness and proved to have a blistering range of ideas. Jean Toussaint on tenor was more of a smokely player which perfectly complemented the two leading lights.

If the opening set went to the horns the rhythm section bounced back in the second. Bassist Lonnie Plexico was full of textural and melodic innovation and. unusually for a young man, a great res pector of free space. Half way though the set there was a great surprise when George Benson joined the Messengers on stage. Kicking off with a scat he went into 'Star-dust' and was exquisitely accompanied by pianist Mul-grew before swapping sixteens in a 'battle of the bands' fashion which for sheer exuberance Blakey himself won.

Benson departed to the leader's exclamation: 'I did not know you sang like that, George, man why you been wastin yourself all these years'.

That left the 65 year old Blakey, Mrs Blakey's little bambino, the role the credits. Still possessed of all the dynamic syncopation that came out of be-bop, Art Blakey's pulse was as superb as ever. Just like his choice of Jazz Messengers.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE WEEK, May 12 to 19.

The National Foster Care Association are celebrating Foster Care Week this year along with their own 10th Anniversary. The NFCA seeks to promote a high standard of care for children in care through a wide range of services. It provides training material for use by foster parents and social workers, publications, information and counselling.

The NFCA promotes an awareness for the need for more foster families as well as producing guidelines and recommendations on a variety of issues affecting the lives of children in care.

The 1984 Foster Care Week will focus on the need for more short term foster families and for more community placements for adolescents.

Currently approximately 40% of children in care are in foster homes - but many more families are needed.

For more information about the NFCA and fostering in general contact the National Foster Care Association, Francis House, Francis St, SW1P 1DE, Tel 828 6266.

Arts showcase at the Tom Allen centre, Grove Crescent Road, E15. On 18-20 May you can bring along your particular skill for the talent spotting sessions.

Hackney campaign against the police bill - benefit on Saturday, 19 May at the Labour and Trades Union Hall 96 Dalston Lane, E8.- Featuring the photo-exhibition 'Policing Hackney' and live music. 8pm.

The answer to Thatcher

A series of four discussions, 30 April, 14 and 29 May, and 11 June at the Family Centre, Rectory Road. Ben Fine of the Communist Party's Economics Advisory Committee will present the Marxist approach but all are welcome to put their point of view and join the discussion. Organised by Rectory Branch CP.

MAY DAY AT VICTORIA PARK

Sunday, 6 May, noon to 9.30pm Bigger than ever! Over 30 music groups, featuring Sixties special, plus jazz, folk, reggae, rock, films, theatre, cabaret, clowns, kid's zoo, funfare, fireworks, stalls from over 200 local groups.

CHATS PALACE

HOMERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

42 BROOKSEY'S WALK E.9. 986 6714

May Calendar

Important: As Chats Palace has a club licence all users of the building must be members or their guests. *Indicates outside hirer.

Thu 8pm	3 Chats Juke Joint with The Boot Hill Foot Tappers and The Blubbery Hellbellies. Plus the Juke Joint sound. £2/£1 unwaged.
Fri 8pm	4 Umoja Theatre Company in "Black Skin, White Mask". £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 8pm	5 Benefit for Kent Miners. The Holloway Allstars £2.50/£1
Sun	6 GLC Mayday at Victoria Park. See you there.
Wed 9pm	9 Covent Garden Community Theatre in episode 2 of "Who Stole County Hall?". Free.
Fri 7.30pm	11 Chats Palace Youth Club present an evening of dance with local dance groups. 50p members/75p non members.
Sat 8pm	12 *Chats Palace Cricket Club Boogie Extravaganza with The Exocetts Three Piano Boogie.
Sun Noon	13 Lunchtime Jazz in the bar with The Rae James Quintet. 50p. Children free.
Wed 8.30pm	16 Boogie piano in the bar. Free.
Thu 8pm	17 Chats Juke Joint with Sugar Ray Ford and The Hot Shots. Plus the Juke Joint sound. £2/£1 unwaged.
Fri 8pm	18 The Albany Combination present "Beggars Can't Be + Sat 19 Choosers". £2/£1 unwaged.
Sun Noon	20 Lunchtime Jazz in the bar with Jazz Standards 50p. Children free.
Wed 8.30pm	23 Boogie piano in the bar. Free.
Thu 8pm	24 Hackney Arts and Leisure Forum A.G.M. With entertainment.
Fri 8pm	25 *Fancy Dress Night by Kingsmead Ramblers, with The Montellas and Double Negative. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 8pm	26 Gospel Music Night with North London groups Clarity and Trumpets of Zion. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sun Noon	27 Lunchtime Jazz with Ruthie Smith's Toot Sweet. 50p. Children free.
Wed 8.30pm	30 Boogie piano in the bar. Free.
Thu	31 *Leabridge Communist Party Film Show. By invitation only.

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★ **MAY BANDSTAND** ★

MONDAY 7th/21st	LYN DOBSON'S FIRE ESCAPE	£1.00
MONDAY 14th/28th	HI-JINX	(£1 unwaged) £1.50
TUESDAY 1st	★ CLUB IT-MAYDAY PARTY CUT LOOSE CABARET 'The Elevators'	£2.00 (£1 unwaged)
TUESDAY 8th/15th	COWAN STREET Jazz	£1.00
TUESDAY 22nd/29th	JACK PINE QUINTET Jazz	£1.00
WEDNESDAY 2nd/16th/30th	REACTORS	£1.00
WEDNESDAY 9th/23rd	DANNY ADLER BAND	£1.00
THURSDAY 3rd	★ KING CLEARY & THE SAVAGE MOOSES New Orleans Rock n' Roll, Rhythm & Blues	£1.50
THURSDAY 10th	EXOCETTS	£1.50
THURSDAY 17th	HANK WANGFORD	£2.50
THURSDAY 24th	EXOCETTS	£1.50
THURSDAY 31st	HANK WANGFORD	£2.50
FRIDAYS	★ JUICE ON THE LOOSE ★	£2.00
SATURDAYS	BIG CHIEF featuring ART THEMEN, DAVE CHAMBERS, JOHN FRY	£1.50
SUNDAY 6th	★ RUBY TURNER BAND ★	£2.00
SUNDAY 13th	RENT PARTY Large Jump, Jive n Boogie Band. Recommended	£2.00
SUNDAY 20th	JULIAN BAHULA'S AFRICAN SOUNDS	£2.00
SUNDAY 27th	IVORY COASTERS	£1.50

Doors open at 8.30 and most bands want to start by 9.15 - please give the musicians your support by coming early. Reduced admission most nights for claimants/ students producing UB40/student union card. No reduction for latecomers.

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Liise's Bodas's BOON IN FLAMES 8.05

RED SKIRTS ON CLYDESDALE 8.05

Almonds & Raisins 8.50

THE CHOSEN 7.00

THE ESSENTIAL HITCHCOCK 8.40pm

REAR WINDOW 7.00pm

On November 13, 1974, Karen Silkwood, an employee of a nuclear facility, left to meet with a reporter from the New York Times.

She never got there.

SILKWOOD 6.00 8.30

MERYL STREEP KURT RUSSELL CHER

FRI 18 SAT 19 SUN 20 MON 21 TUE 22 WED 23

Terms of Endearment 6.00 8.30

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THURSDAYS + MATINEES + SPECIAL EVENTS

THURSDAY 26 APRIL (MATINEE)

SPECIAL SHOW FOR HACKNEY PLAYSCHEMES

DARK CRYSTAL JULY 1983, 92 mins 2.00

Tickets: 25p under 15s; £1 adults.

THURSDAY 26 APRIL (EVENING)

CARRY GREENHAM HERE (UK 1983 40 mins) 7.00

+ BORN IN FLAMES (US 1993, 92 mins) 8.20

SUNDAY 29 APRIL

Ffilm benefit for Hackney Playchemes, with screening of:

HARLEN COUNTY USA (Barbara Appleby, US 1976/100m) 1.00

+ THE MINERS (film 1983) 8pm + 9pm

+ See over for details

THURSDAY 3 (MATINEE)

THE TEMPEST (US Debra Jagan, GB 1980 96m) 1.00

+ ALL EIGHTS A PRISON

+ FREE CINEMA

THURSDAY 3 (EVENING)

SOUTHERN COMFORT (US Walter Peitz, GB 1981 100m) 8.00

+ PRINCE OF THE CITY (Gladys Lander, GB 1981 100m) 8.20

SATURDAY 3 (MATINEE)

A programme of films, including animation, fictional shorts and documentaries, by local filmmakers and students from Crosswinds and Nations Film School. 2.00

+ MAY DAY AT VICTORIA PARK (see over) 1.00

+ See over for details

SUNDAY 6 (AFTERNOON)

MAY DAY AT VICTORIA PARK (see over) 1.00

+ See over for details

THURSDAY 10 (MATINEE)

NORMA RAE (US Walter Peitz, GB 1981 100m) 1.00

+ ALL EIGHTS A PRISON

+ FREE CINEMA

THURSDAY 10 (EVENING)

GREEN FLUTES (Gladys Lander, GB 1981 100m) 8.00

+ ACCEPTABLE LEVELS (John Davies, GB 1981 100m) 8.20

+ THE PIG-MASTERS (US Walter Peitz, GB 1981 100m) 8.40

SUNDAY 13 (MATINEE)

TRAGEDY OF A RICH MAN (US 1981 100m) 1.00

+ (US) BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (US 1981 100m) 1.20

+ ANNOUNCED (US Frankford Peitz, GB 1981 100m) 1.40

+ TWO SISTERS (US 1981 100m) 1.60

+ See over for details

THURSDAY 17 (MATINEE)

TWO SISTERS (US 1981 100m) 1.00

+ ALL EIGHTS A PRISON

+ FREE CINEMA

THURSDAY 17 (EVENING)

MORNING GLORY (US 1981 100m) 1.00

+ TWO SISTERS (US 1981 100m) 1.20

+ See over for details

SUNDAY 20 (MATINEE)

LES MENDES-VIDES (US 1981 100m) 1.00

+ TOUTE UNE NUIT (US 1981 100m) 1.20

+ TWO SISTERS (US 1981 100m) 1.40

+ See over for details

THURSDAY 24 (MATINEE)

NINE TO FIVE (US 1981 100m) 1.00

+ ALL EIGHTS A PRISON

+ FREE CINEMA

THURSDAY 24 (EVENING)

NOTHING SACRED (US 1981 100m) 1.00

+ NINE TO FIVE (US 1981 100m) 1.20

+ See over for details

THURSDAY 31 (MATINEE)

SOUNDER (US 1981 100m) 1.00

+ STARRING (US 1981 100m) 1.20

+ ALL EIGHTS A PRISON

+ FREE CINEMA

THURSDAY 31 (EVENING)

Ffilm benefit for Hackney Playchemes, with screening of:

ALL ABOUT THE MEXICAN (US 1981 100m) 1.00

+ ALL ABOUT THE MEXICAN (US 1981 100m) 1.20

+ ALL ABOUT THE MEXICAN (US 1981 100m) 1.40

+ See over for details

COMING SOON

+ THE GLENN (US 1981 100m) 1.00

+ THE GLENN (US 1981 100m) 1.20

+ THE GLENN (US 1981 100m) 1.40

+ See over for details

Maxwell's axe comes down

65 jobs chopped at Shoreditch printers



ROBERT MAXWELL, the "socialist" print tycoon and football baron, has succeeded in cutting back Waterlows Security Printers in Shoreditch to a skeleton 23 person workforce.

Around 90 print workers occupied the fifth floor of Maxwell House on 11 April to oppose Maxwell's closure plans. Management were at an office party at the time.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Perhaps this issue of HPP is the first one you've ever seen. Perhaps you've bought the odd copy in the past, but never regularly. Perhaps you are a devoted monthly reader (there are some!).

Whatever you are, did you know that you can help write or produce the next issue? All you have to do is come to our open editorial meeting, which will be held in Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8 at 8pm on WEDNESDAY 16 MAY

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders, and no one is paid by the paper.

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £3.30 for a twelve issue subscription to Hackney People's Press, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury Street, N16. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS. Please add a donation if you can afford it!

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Printed and published by Hackney People's Press, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury Street, London N16 8JN. Telephone 01-806 9211 (evenings and weekends).

Maxwell took the NGA and SOGAT 82 to court over the occupation and the print unions were fined at total of £150,000. The unions' funds would also have been sequestered if the occupiers didn't vacate the building by 25 April.

At the eleventh hour (and while Maxwell was bidding for the *Observer*) the national secretaries of the NGA and SOGAT, Tony Dubbins and Joe Wade, came to an agreement which sacrificed all but 23 of the Waterlow jobs. As part of the deal Maxwell agreed to pay the unions' fines and kicked in an extra £5,000 towards redundancy payments.

During the occupation Maxwell often arrived in his purple Rolls Royce and talked with picketers as he walked to the private lift serving his penthouse office.

"Are you still here?" he asked on one occasion. "I can't wait til this is all over."

"Nor can we," the workers replied.

The Waterlow redundancies came about after the National Westminster Bank cancelled its contract for cheques with the company.

Waterlows has been operating in Shoreditch for over 150 years, but has been run down and starved of investment since Maxwell's British Printing and Communications Corporation acquired the firm several years ago.

Amnesty

The Islington and Hackney group of Amnesty International has launched a new campaign aimed at abolishing torture throughout the world.

Members recently took part in an event at Covent Garden to mark the start of a wider campaign by the worldwide human rights movement to expose and end the use of "torture as a tool of state policy."

Group secretary Jane Ward told HPP that "In many countries even children are tortured, or forced to watch their parents being tortured. We have received our evidence from victims themselves, and also from other witnesses, court records and former security agents who took part in torture sessions."



MEMBERS OF THE ISLINGTON AND HACKNEY GROUP OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.

PHOTO: STEPHEN BACKES.

Members of Amnesty report horrifying testimonies of different forms of psychological and brutal physical torture from countries ranging from Chile and El Salvador to Iran and the Soviet Union. Amnesty's belief is that if the political will is there, torture can be stopped.

Anyone wishing to lend their support to the local group in anyway can contact The Secretary Islington and Hackney Amnesty Group c/o Flat 13, 68-70 Queens Drive, N4 2XR. Tel 800 7437 (H).

GREEN & PLEASANT LEA VALLEY?

PLANS OPEN FOR DEBATE

Wild and wooded - or developed and built-up? The debate over the future of the Lee Valley is still continuing, with widely differing views on what should happen there being held by various groups. The current discussions are a result of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority's revision of its plans for the development of the park. A part of this process is consultation with local groups and authorities to find out their views.

A group of Hackney people has just produced a report on their own ideas, 'Green and pleasant?'. The group, the Lee Valley Forum, came up with these ideas after taking several walks around the marshes to see what they thought was needed.

The forum wanted many more trees planted, nature reserves established and some of the cuts re-excavated. The emphasis, it felt, should be on the open space of the park, and on the enjoyment of it by local people. Any buildings therefore should not be at the expense of the surroundings: old buildings which contribute to the character of the valley should be preserved, and usefully developed. New buildings, if allowed at all, must be strictly controlled.

The group thought it most important that access should be improved - footpaths, cycletracks and bridges were all needed.

The group is holding meet-

ings for other people to come along and discuss their plans. There will be an exhibition and slide show. Still to come are:

Thursday, 10 May at Mandeville school, Mandeville Street, E5 at 8 pm

Thursday, 17 May at Chats Palace, Brooksbys Walk, E9 at 8 pm

Hackney Council representatives will be there, and so, at the last meeting, will officials from the Lee Valley Park Authority. They will make a presentation of their own, quite different ideas. Public feedback from the meetings will be used to influence the council's proposals to the authority.

SUMMER WALKS

After the meetings have been held, there will be six summer walks to discuss the ideas 'on the ground'. The first will be

Thursday, 24 May, starting from the Prince of Wales on Lea Bridge Road at 7 pm walking round Lea Bridge

The rest - same time, same place - will be weekly as follows:

31 May - Hackney marsh
7 June - Springfield/Walthamstow
14 June - Low hall
21 June - Bully fen
28 June - Walthamstow reservoir

PREGNANCY BOOK NOW OUT



The Health Education Council has brought out its new 'Pregnancy book' with the intention of making it available to all pregnant women in the course of this year. The book is a comprehensive guide for prospective and new parents, taking them through the

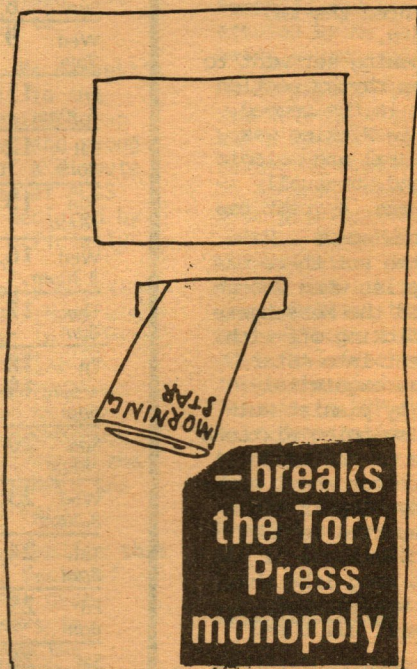
stages of pre-conceptual preparation, pregnancy, birth and the early months of the baby's life.

The aims of the book are to provide information to enable parents to make choices and decisions, and to help them to enjoy the pregnancy and the baby. Both aims are successfully met: the information is clear and readable with useful illustrations and diagrams.

The comments from parents, cartoons, and particularly the photos, bring out the pleasures of pregnancy, birth and babies. The 'Pregnancy book' should be available in health centres, surgeries and antenatal clinics; single copies can be obtained from

The Health Education Council
PO Box 416
London SE99 6YE

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